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FRIDAY MARCH, 30, 1917.

SIDE-TRACKING SUNDAY SERVICES.

Last Sunday the churches and Sunday Schools in Bluefield suspended services in order to give the people of that city an opportunity to welcome home the soldier boys who had been on the border, whose arrival took place just at the hour of service. The church people and Sunday School pupils, officers and teachers assembled at the depot and with great rejoicing and considerable hilarity, "welcomed" the boys home. The joy at having sons, husbands, brothers and sweethearts home again was natural and commendable, appreciated fully only by those directly concerned.

The question, an important one, is, was the action of the churches and Sunday Schools right and proper in side-tracking their services in order to celebrate the return of the soldiers? A leading minister, pastor of the First Baptist church of Bluefield, gave his unqualified approval, saying so over his own signature, and declaring that "it is as important to teach patriotism as religion, especially when patriotism means the continuance in the world of free institutions, and democracy as a principle and method of humane government."

It is taken for granted that Dr. Mabie expressed the sentiments of the other pastors of the city of Bluefield.

Rev. Thomas Mowbray, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Graham, whose congregation and Sunday School was also considerably diminished on the sacred day, dissents and vigorously condemns such "desecration of the Sabbath." He goes out of his way, however, to bring President Wilson in as possibly responsible, indirectly at least, for the arrival of the troops in Bluefield at this particular time Sunday. Mr. Wilson is not running the railroads. There is force in Mr. Mowbray's protest. We cannot but feel that the preaching and teaching of the Bible on the Sabbath day should not be side-tracked from any worldly or commercial consideration whatsoever. If the mission of the ministers and churches is to save the people from hell nothing else on earth is of anything like equal moment and importance, and when the business is side-tracked and gives place to anything like a military parade or any other parade or matter, harm is most sure to result. Patriotism is not Christianity. Nothing is Christianity but Christianity.

OUR PART IN THE WAR.

"What part, if any, will the United States take in the war, and how?" is a question frequently asked. While war has not been formally declared by the United States against Germany, a state of war actually exists, and will be formally and officially declared, it is said, when Congress meets April 2. As an intelligent reader knows, Congress alone has the power to declare war. When war is declared, what then?

The question has been widely discussed in the leading newspapers by leading men, and the program most generally suggested is about this: The United States' part in the war will consist in furnishing war supplies to the Allies in the shape of food, munitions and money. It is not thought that United States troops will be sent to Europe. This would be impracticable for several reasons, but thought possible that warships may be put at the disposal of the navy of the Allies. Some writers advocate landing a large army in France to be thrown against Germany. Should this be decided upon it could not be done, it is pointed out, within less than a year, as twelve months' time at least would be necessary to mobilize, train and equip a large army. Before that time the war will surely be over. Should the war continue the United States will in all probability, send the troops to France. President Wilson, it is thought, will issue a call for 500 thousand volunteers to go into training. The die is cast. The world has decided and decreed that brutality on the seas and the land, as shown by the conduct of the German Emperor, and the United States is now pledged to this consummation. For the present our activities will be on the seas, acting as a sort of police guard to ships carrying munitions, etc., for the Allied armies. So the chief men think and declare. However, there is no saying now what may happen or what a day may bring forth. These are perilous and revolutionary times. Nearly the whole world is in conflagration. The United States has exerted and exhausted every resource to keep out of this quarrel, but now, the entire population is lining up and ready, willing and even anxious, to take part.

Watch the old cat. The young birds will disappear. Give the old cat a dose of poison, or a bullet rather than lose the birds. Some cats are very fond, too, of young chickens.

WHAT WILL BE THE CZAR'S FATE?

The Czar, (formerly) of Russia, and his wife, the Zarina, are in prison, deposed forever from the throne of Russia. The rulers, the Czar in chief of course, were charged with three things—1, Inefficiency; 2, Corruption; 3, Treachery—a softer word than treason, with meaning about the same. Nicholas was forced to abdicate the throne, and is now under arrest, with his wife in his private palace, closely guarded. What will be done with him? Under the circumstances, the impression prevails, that he will not be executed, owing to the good feeling prevailing on account of the great revolution, practically bloodless, which has delivered the Russian empire from slavery and worse. He was the dupe of others they say—his wife chiefly, who is a sister of the German Emperor, and will be, it is thought, leniently dealt with.

Siberia, with its prisons populated by Russian exiles through the Czar's orders would be about right for his future abode. However not a few of the leading papers contend that he should suffer the fate of traitors in all countries. His five children, the papers state, are ill with the measles and scarlet fever, and his wife, and aged mother are reported ill. All these misfortunes at one time, may soften the hearts of the government courts, and mitigate the punishment. One result is certain—no more crowned heads for Russia, unless Germany should perchance win this war. After this war crowns of kings and of queens will become historic relics of a bygone age.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP AND MR. BRYAN.

In his Madison Square Garden speech Mr. Bryan suggested, not "advocated," that government ownership of railroads was a future possibility. A number of folks threw fits and "went after" Mr. Bryan with gloves off. Not many weeks ago several leading men, including a member or two of Congress, have openly declared that government ownership of railroads is not only practicable but the only solution of serious problems and disturbances which are continually bobbing up. If the railroads and the labor unions do not get along with each other smoother and more peacefully something along this line will happen and Mr. Bryan's "dream" may come true.

GIVING MR. WILSON ADVICE.

Last November the people of these great United States selected one man from a number of applicants to become President of this government. They, some time before that, adopted a constitution and by-laws upon which he was to stand, and by which he was to be governed.

Nevertheless, there are a number of newspapers in these same United States, who arrogate to themselves the privilege of giving Mr. Wilson advice as to how he should run the government—what he should do and not do. And the smaller the paper and the further away from the source of information the more pressing and constant is this advice given, which is only another form of fault-finding and nagging. The country seems to have grievously erred in the selection of its chief justice and its law makers! Wonderful!

"JONES" TO THE FORE AGAIN.

Just as we all predicted, the railroads are petitioning the commission to allow increased freight rates since the establishing of the 8-hours day. This means that the extra millions the roads claim the new law will entail upon them, will be charged up to the shippers.

As usual, "Jones pays the freight bills."

WORTH ALL THE COST.

The war has been costly in many ways almost inconceivable. But the revolution in Russia—this alone, is worth the cost. "The sun of freedom is rising in the dark places of Europe." The Rumanoffs are gone. The Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs are going. "The Turks will be driven from the Holy City and the chosen people restored." "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

Now cometh the season when the neighbors chickens mobilize and war begins.

Appropos of the revolutions and abdications, and renunciations in the old country, would it be out of place to state that the common people of the whole world had declared an "open season" for kings and monarch and Emperors, etc.

The proposal to move the Court House of Botetourt from its present site at Fincastle to Buchanan. It will never be done. The present location is central. And then, what would Fincastle be without that old red brick court house? Let it alone, except it might be fixed up a little.

A FRIEND TO LEAN UPON.

The most comfortable feeling That the breast of man can get When the dark of night comes stealing

Over days that brought regret And he's hurt and bruised and aching And he thinks his strength is gone, Is the glad and warm hand-shaking Of a friend to lean upon. Let a million strangers doubt me, Let the hundreds mock and sneer And say bitter things about me, I can brush away the tear, And my course refuse to alter, But keep bravely going on If I know that when I falter I've a friend to lean upon. —Detroit Free Press.

The Forum

POBIST IN NEW YORK.

Tazewell Lawyer Gives Some Idea of "Americanism" Developed Through Prospect of War with Germany

New York City, March 23. Editor Clinch Valley News: Living, as I have been for the past two months, right in the heart of our nation, New York City, whence goes the life-blood of the country, out to the farthest extremities where floats the stars and stripes, I thought I might be able to give you a few personal touches on what is happening here. Patriotism, love of country, enthusiastic support of the impending declaration of war, business like preparations, all these are seen on every hand. Here in New York, that most cosmopolitan of all American cities, hundreds of thousands of people are saying with pride "I am an American." There seem to be only two classes of people here now, as Mayor Mitchell said last night in his address at Madison Square Garden—Americans and traitors.

It was my pleasure to attend that meeting last night, in company with our friend, Buford Tynes, former Senator Elihu Root, Mayor Mitchell, the Presidents of Columbia and of Princeton Universities; Hon. C. S. Fairchild, Secretary and Treasurer under Cleveland and others, addressed about 15,000 people. All classes were represented. It was truly an American almost beyond comprehension. The nation is awakening! National feeling, after having been lulled to sleep for a few decades, (perhaps the principal lullers know) is taking on new life. The sentiment of the people at the meeting seemed to be: (1) To go into the war with the Allies at once and with vigor; (2) To exert at least half a million men to Europe and (3) to provide for compulsory military training. Whenever either of these things were mentioned, they were received with tremendous applause. Occasional yells of pro-Germans, Pacifists and others of like ilk of "Let us Have Peace," and "To Hell With Wilson," were received by answering yells from ten thousand throats of "Put Him Out, Put Him Out," and in all instances this was promptly done by members of the Defense League, the disturbers being bodily thrown from the building.

Sousa's band furnished the music, and everybody sang when the band started "America," and "The Star Spangled Banner." Among the numbers of music rendered was "Dixie," and even here in New York it met with a hearty response. The meeting was held under the auspices of 42 patriotic societies. I enclose you a program. Among the list of honorary Vice-Presidents you will see men from every walk in life—men of international prominence.

Patriotism is in the air! The people, as a whole, are proud of being Americans. I am wondering how many flags are flying over the school houses of Tazewell county. There should certainly be a large handsome one over each of the High Schools. The children of each school should take a pride in providing flags, if they do not already have them. How many schools of the county have the National Songs sung two or three times a week? Wouldn't it be a good thing if it is not being done? In the war that is coming, coming, we must all "do our bit." Will we of the mountains of Virginia be outdone in patriotism by this New York that we have come to look upon almost as a foreign city? It is the opinion of the thinking men of the nation that if we are to continue to enjoy the freedom which has been ours for nearly a century and a half, that German Militarism must be crushed. There is certainly food for thought in this.

Yours very truly,
H. CLAUDE POBIST.

LETTER FROM J. W. BAKER.

Although Ill, Recalls Incidents of Civil War, Showing Faithfulness of Colored Man of the South.

Lafollette, Tenn., Mar. 19. Mr. Editor:—Six days ago while seated on the porch the telephone in my head failed to carry orders down the line. Then the organs ceased their functions, and the old man fell in a heap to the floor. There the kids soon found me. You see the trouble is I need a new outfit that will neither get out of order nor wear out. But no such outfit is kept in stock in this country. To get it one must cross to the other side, and I have not the least objection to making the journey. I am so old that most of those who love me and whom I love have passed over, and no doubt, would be glad to see me at any time. There one will find a perfect environment, then why should we desire to stay away?

In these days there is unending war between capital and labor. Each carries a sharp knife that he may plant it under the fifth rib of the other. Fifty years ago it was not so. Then capital was in the ranks at the front. Labor was at home in the fields, and taking care of the women and the children. Any day the slaves could have risen, killed, burned, laid waste the whole country. Often solicited to do this, in every instance they refused. Snobs and counter-jumpers have often wondered why old man Baker should stop on the street to shake hands with a negro. Well, now, you have the reason. In acting as they did, the negroes paid the highest tribute to the slave-holder that was ever paid to any people. It was an acknowledgment that, on the whole, they had been fairly treated by their owners. It is an unanswerable answer to all the lying slanders that were spoken or written against the Southern people.

There have been many definitions of war. I think General Sherman was wrong. In war there is some compensation. This cannot be true of the other place. It was my good fortune, in war, to belong to a band of heroes with whom heroic deeds were mentioned. Let me give two instances: One the 9th of August, 1862, I saw two Confederate soldiers, in the very crisis of the battle, stop to pull a great, fat, wounded Yankee soldier out of a ditch. He had so completely felled the ditch that he was about to drown in a pool of his own making. They were killing all the Yankees they could, then why care for a fellow in the ditch? In the Bloody Angle, on May 12, 1864, a wounded Federal soldier lay across the breast works from us, the

bullets from his men falling like hail about him. Two Southern soldiers, one of them Martin Stinglefellow, a brother of the noted spy, reach over, took him in their arms and put him in a safe place. They were out to kill, why save this one? Who can tell?

Once I was hauled home and carried in. My wife met me in tears and laughter. In tears to see her husband suffer, laughing because he yet lived. She did what she could to console me for all the misery I had endured; for all the pain I had suffered. About the time of the surrender some of the boys came home when they should not have come. My wife was in upper room when I was at the door and asked "Old man, have you got your parole?" I told her it was in my pocket. Then she threw herself into my arms. What she would have done had the scrap of paper not been in evidence I cannot tell, for I never asked her.

This is too long now and I must close. Truly your friend,
J. W. BAKER.

A CHRISTIAN'S RELATION TO WAR.

In this study I assume that in our present condition what we most desire is light. Therefore, we should first have our minds directed to the original sources of information.

The Old Testament prophecies and promises, promises and precedents of the New Testament contain the primary, original and reliable sources upon which each individual Christian must depend for guidance in an honest effort to find out his relation to war. I have omitted to mention the precedents in the Old Testament as a Christian's relation to war, because I do not understand that wars waged in effort to develop a temporal nation among other temporal nations can be properly regarded as precedents in the great spiritual warfare in which Christians are engaged in establishing a kingdom which is to break in pieces and consume all earthly kingdoms. The Christian is the product of Pentecost and therefore no previous participation in war by any person or nation can properly be regarded as a precedent for him. It is misleading to quote war precedents under the banner to govern a Christian in his relations under the gospel.

I have been unable to find in all the New Testament a single instance wherein Christ, either by precept or example gives the slightest encouragement to his followers to go to war for any cause. Upon the contrary, both by precept and example he plainly declared against war. It takes a vivid imagination indeed to find justification for a Christian to go to war in the example of Christ driving the money changers from the temple. It must require a great genius to see any similarity between the zeal of Christ for his Father's house and a battle of bullets for business, or in fighting for the freedom of the seas, or cutting throats for commerce. Jesus said: "If my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight?" John 18:36.

Peter needed light as to his relation to Christ and war when he cut off a man's ear in defense of his Master. Yes, mark you, in defense of his master. Peter received light when he was rebuked for his mistake and was told by Christ to "Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword." Matt. 26:52.

A Christian sustains a dual relation to the Government. His citizenship is in heaven and yet he is a subject of Caesar. It is often difficult for him to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God, the things that are God's. Of one thing, however, he may always be sure, and that is, it is the dollar that bears the image of Caesar. Of one other thing he may be equally sure, and that is, that the kingdom of heaven consists not in the meat and drink but in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. He need not be in doubt that the fruit of the Spirit is "Love, Joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and lusts thereof." Gal. 3:22-24.

To a Christian it is not that he

stands for "Peace at any price," but that he will not be disloyal to his Lord for any price. If to fight were disloyalty to Christ he will stand for peace at whatever cost.

A Christian is a hyphenated citizen, who owes allegiance to his Lord and service to Caesar. But he need not be in doubt as to his duty when a conflict arises in which the principles of his higher citizenship conflict with his service to Caesar. If to kill my fellow-man is in conflict with Righteousness, Gentleness, Meekness, Kindness, Goodness, I must settle that conflict between these in favor of higher principles and against those pertaining to Caesar's kingdom which are "Enmities, Strife, Jealousies, Wrath, Factions, and Divisions, Parties and Envyings." Paul tells us plainly in Galatians 5:21: "That they who practice such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God."

"Whether our young men shall be called from field and school and college to drown in sinking ships at sea, to dash from plunging aircraft to crushing death below, to offer their lives amid rain of leaden hail from skies which vomit death and where earth breaks forth with forces and fires and fumes of hell; or whether, trained for endurance which the new world order demands, they shall go forth servants of the Prince of Peace to help construct the brotherhood which is to be; whether we all shall gird ourselves for such sacrifices as our kindred across the sea are making, and to do that with no clear and useful purpose; or, whether, with highest, finest self-giving, with clearest vision as to certain and enduring results, we shall prepare ourselves for some proportionate sacrifices in the tangible interest of humanity and in the manifest advancement of established agencies of Christ's kingdom upon the earth, that is the question which the Christian in America faces." F. W. Burnham, in American Home Missionary.

"Were half the power that fills the world with terror, Or half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts, Given to redeem the human mind from error, There were no need of arsenals nor forts."

The warrior's name would be a name abhorred, And every nation that should lift again Its hand against a brother, on its forehead Would wear forevermore the curse of Cain." —Longfellow. Tazewell, Va., March 27, 1917. J. N. HARMAN.

THE WIDOW.

(A Quatrain.) A woman complete through the lessons of love, And refined by its lessons of sorrow, She fits into life like the hand to the glove, And may dream of a tender tomorrow. —H. M. S.

WIDE-TIRED TRUCKS MAKE OWN LOGGING ROADS.

Powerful wide-tired trucks are now being used in logging regions in Oregon and Washington which virtually make their own roads as they go. One type of these cars is described in the April Popular Mechanics Magazine. It has front tires 10 in. wide and back tires 20 in. wide. An experienced driver carefully selects his course as he goes over a route for the first time and the weight of his machine makes a road as it moves along. A few trips over the same line of travel will make a hard, smooth surface which will withstand considerable bad weather. Four-wheeled trailers are often used with these trucks.

THE MODERN METHOD.

Mary, small but up to date, had been to ten for the first time with the new neighbor. From all accounts the little girl there had not been at all generous in permitting Mary to share her playthings. "Well," said Mary's mother when she had heard about it, "if anybody had treated me like that when I was a little girl I should have come right home." Mary shrugged her shoulders. "Things have changed since your day, mother," she said. "I slapped her face and stayed."

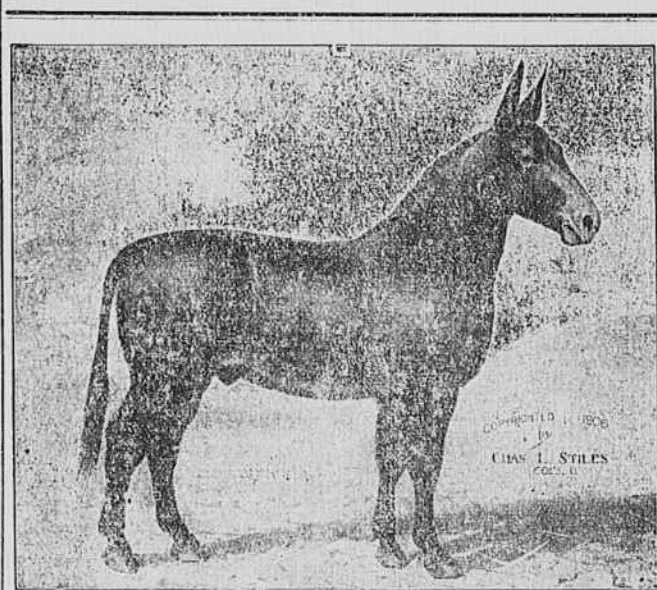
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